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Dear NASA-members,

It is a great honor to serve as the new chair of NASA. By now—this is my third year at Leiden—I have come to recognize and value the special qualities of the American Studies community in the Netherlands. It is an open, friendly, and ecumenical group of scholars that, because of its relatively small size, is a wonderful vehicle of intellectual exchange. I have also been struck by the vitality of the various American Studies programs around the country, at both BA and MA levels, and by the lively and intelligent students these programs attract. The presence of visiting Fulbright scholars in the field of American Studies is another valuable resource. We have close and fruitful links with the US Embassy. And then, of course, we are blessed with the good fortune to have the Roosevelt Study Center—a marvelous research facility and meeting place—on our very doorstep. With a firm foundation to build upon, and with the help of my colleagues on the new NASA committee, I want to ensure that NASA continues to function effectively as both an intellectual forum and a means of stimulating broader interest in our subject.

NASA cannot stand still, however. We wish to try new things. We want to experiment. Some aspects of NASA are so successful—the Amerikanistendag is an outstanding example—that we wish to continue them as they are. However, the committee proposes a new format for NASA’s annual meetings. We would like to organize more one-day meetings—at least one a year—that are geared toward specific themes. These one-day events could take place in October. The three-day conference, on the other hand, would be held every two years rather than annually. By holding more single-day events, NASA will draw more people into its activities, especially as we propose that these events rotate among the universities. And by holding the full conference in alternate years, NASA hopes for a larger turnout and a greater sense of occasion.

NASA’s plans, however, are still evolving. In formulating them, moreover, we seek YOUR input. Send us your ideas and suggestions. Tell us what you think works and what doesn’t work. Let us know what you think NASA ought to be offering, you may even send us your complaints!

Finally, let me state the obvious: This is a perfect year in which to stimulate interest in American Studies. This year’s presidential primaries are not only uncommonly exciting but also of historic significance. Moreover, thanks to the internet we can—while in our homes or offices—follow the campaign in unprecedented detail, as it unfolds. The New York Times and the Washington Post can both be read on-line, and both contain web-links to the candidates’ speeches. Sign up by e-mail to the three campaigns so that you receive daily updates, as well as links that enable you to hear entire speeches whenever you want to. (The Obama people have been especially adept at exploiting this medium). Use the internet to access American television programs such as Hardball and Keith Olberman. Enjoy!

Adam Fairclough
Universiteit Leiden
In Memoriam Roland E. Arnall

Roland E. Arnall, who served as US ambassador to the Netherlands for two years, died in Los Angeles on 17 March, only days after resigning his position. Mr. Arnall was a Holocaust survivor. Born in Paris in 1939, his parents raised him as a Catholic until, after the Second World War, they could reveal to him his identity as a Jew. The family migrated to Canada and, in the late 1950s, to Los Angeles. A self-made businessman, Arnall began his career running a flower stand and ended it as chief executive of Ameriquest, which pioneered the development of the controversial “sub-prime” mortgage market. Accumulating a personal fortune estimated at $1.5 billion, Arnall and his wife, Dawn, were generous philanthropists, particularly with respect to Jewish causes. They were also major donors to the Republican Party. Arnall contributed to American public life in various other ways, including service on the board of trustees of the California State University system.

As ambassador to the Netherlands, Roland Arnall displayed genuine interest in this country and its people. A man of considerable charm and impressive authority, he not only made himself accessible but also continued the tradition of supporting American Studies in the Netherlands. I was especially pleased that he attended the opening lecture in the series “The Civil Rights Movement Fifty Years After,” organized by Joke Kardux and myself last year. My most vivid memory of Mr. Arnall is from another visit to Leiden that included an informal meeting with students. Faced with a barrage of criticism over American foreign policy—couched in the forthright Dutch manner—the ambassador listened quietly and patiently, before pleading with his interrogators to place things in perspective. Pointing out that two murders had wrought enormous political changes in the Netherlands—he did not need to add that some of those changes have been rather ugly—he asked for our sympathetic understanding when judging the political impact in the United States of three thousand murders. It was a masterful performance.

A memorial service for Mr. Arnall took place on 2 April at Beth Jehoeda Synagogue in Den Haag.

Nieuw NASA-bestuur

Adam Fairclough, voorzitter

I was born in London in 1952. My interest in the United States began in 1961, when an aunt, who worked in the London bureau of Time-Life Inc., gave me copies of Life magazine that contained stirring, romanticized images of the Civil War. Like the author of Confederates in the Attic, I became hooked on the Civil War—even writing bad poetry on the subject and naming my dog, a scruffy mongrel, after Stonewall Jackson. Later, putting away childish things, I became inspired and fascinated by the civil rights movement. However, it required no great leap to move from civil war to civil rights: one was a sequel of the other, and both took place in the South.
After studying Modern History at Balliol College, Oxford, where I had the privilege of being taught by such great scholars as Christopher Hill and Richard Cobb, I received a Ph.D. from Keele University for a thesis on SCLC, the organization led by Martin Luther King, Jr. Between 1978 and 2005 I taught at universities in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales, first becoming a professor at the University of Leeds in 1994. I have written seven books on the subject of the civil rights movement and African American history. The most important are To Redeem the Soul of America: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King, Jr. (1987); Race and Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana 1915-1972 (1995); Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality, 1890-2000 (2001); and A Class of Their Own: Black Teachers in the Segregated South (2007). My research on the civil rights movement has taken me to virtually every state in the South, and I have gotten to know Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas especially well. My current research project is a study of Reconstruction in the town and parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Since 2005 I have held the Raymond and Beverley Sackler Chair of American History and Culture at Leiden University. My classes include America and Vietnam; The American Civil War and Reconstruction; and The Civil Rights Movement.

Diederik Oostdijk, secretaris
Mijn naam is Diederik Oostdijk. Ik ben universitair docent Engelstalige letterkunde op de Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam en doceer vooral over 19e en 20e eeuwse Amerikaanse literatuur. Ik heb Engelse Taal en Cultuur en Amerikanistiek gestudeerd aan de Radboud Universiteit in Nijmegen. In mijn laatste jaar aan Boston College heb ik mijn doctoraalscriptie geschreven over de literaire kritiek van de dichter Karl Shapiro. Na mijn studie werd ik assistent in opleiding aan de Radboud Universiteit en in 2000 voltooide ik mijn proefschrift, getiteld “Karl Shapiro and Poetry: A Magazine of Verse (1950-1955).” Kort voor en na mijn promotie was ik junior docent aan de Radboud Universiteit in Nijmegen en was ik gastdocent aan de University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Mijn onderzoek richt zich op het snijvlak van Amerikaanse literatuur en Amerikaanse geschiedenis in de 20ste en 21ste eeuw, in het bijzonder op belangwekkende historische of politieke gebeurtenissen en hoe schrijvers die in verschillende genres verbeelden. Ik heb net een boek afgerond over hoe Amerikaanse dichters reageerden op de Tweede Wereldoorlog en ik zal de komende jaren doorgaan met het publiceren over de representatie van oorlog. Dit zal over andere oorlogen en andere media/genres gaan.

Ik ben ook begonnen met een nieuw project dat gaat over de redenen waarom en de manieren waarop Amerikaanse poëzie verstrengeld is geraakt met Amerikaanse politiek. Hoe kan het dat steeds minder Amerikanen poëzie lijken te lezen en poëziebundels steeds minder worden verkocht, maar dichters sinds de tweede helft van de twintigste eeuw steeds prominenter naar voren worden geschoven door de politiek? Dichters zijn commercieel gemarginaliseerd, maar de verwachtingen die de dichter zou moeten spelen in de Amerikaanse democratie zijn juist toegenomen.
Giles Scott-Smith, penningmeester
I am currently a senior researcher with the Roosevelt Study Center and lecturer in International Relations at the Roosevelt Academy, both situated in Middelburg. My research interests cover the role of culture and ideology in international affairs, particularly as articulated through state-private networks and public diplomacy activities during the Cold War and beyond. My main research projects at the moment cover the importance of exchange programs in transatlantic and US-Dutch relations, and a study of anti-communist networks around Western Europe during the 1960s and 1970s.

I came to the Netherlands in 1996 as a Ph.D. student, and have somehow managed to navigate the perils of Dutch academia since then (in some ways an intriguingly different set of perils to those in the UK). After gaining my Ph.D. from Lancaster University in 1998, I lectured in International Relations at the Amsterdam School of International Relations and Webster University in Leiden before joining the RSC at the beginning of 2002 as a post-doc. The post-doc project at the RSC covered the history and practice of the US State Department’s Foreign Leader Program in the Netherlands, and this has now been published, with extra material on other countries, as Networks of Empire: The US State Department’s Foreign Leader Program in the Netherlands, France, and Britain 1950-70 (2008). Other publications include The Politics of Apolitical Culture: The Congress for Cultural Freedom, the CIA, and Post-War American Hegemony (2002); and The Cultural Cold War in Western Europe 1945-1960, edited with Hans Krabbendam (2003).

In the wider world I enjoy the company of various networks, including the Netherlands Intelligence Studies Association, the Transatlantic Studies Association, and the Libertas Centre on US Foreign Policy at Birmingham University in the UK. I am also one of the editors of the online, peer-reviewed European Journal of American Studies, for which all article proposals and submissions are welcome, especially in the field of history and politics.

Beerd Beukenhorst
My name is Beerd Beukenhorst, a PhD student with a teaching position at the University of Amsterdam. I studied History and the History of International Relations at that same university, and graduated in 2006. My dissertation topic is the legacy of the Vietnam War in international relations and how its memory influences foreign policymaking in the United States in the years after 1975. I am particularly interested in people’s personal experiences during that war and how they formulated and implemented their so-called “lessons from Vietnam” as soon as they were able to steer the countries international endeavors.

In the new NASA-board, I am the PhD representative. I will try to improve the available resources for Dutch PhD students in American Studies, and promote the exchange of their ideas and experiences on an (inter)national platform. Since there is no such thing as a Dutch graduate school for American Studies, the NASA—in close cooperation with the several
departments in the Netherlands—could form an appropriate alternative. In the past few years, the Roosevelt Study Center has done some great work in initiating activities for PhD students. In my opinion, the expansion and nurturing of that stimulating academic environment should be high on the agenda of the NASA for the years to come.

Marietta Messmer

Before coming to the Netherlands, I—a German national—studied English, American Studies, and Latin at the Catholic University of Eichstätt (Germany) and the University of Wales College Cardiff (UK). I received my PhD in American Literature (on a study of Emily Dickinson’s correspondence) from York University, Toronto (Canada) in 1997 and completed my Habilitationsschrift on the impact of postmodern theories on ethnic identity movements at the University of Goettingen (Germany) in the summer of 2004. Since the fall of 2004, I am a member of the American Studies Department at the University of Groningen.

My current teaching and research interests focus on the cultural and political situation of ethnic minorities within the United States (in particular Chicanos/as and Native Americans); theoretical debates on multiculturalism, assimilation, integration and identity politics; and the United States in international and hemispheric contexts. America’s uneasy relations to its Canadian and Mexican neighbors also form the basis for two second-year courses that I have been teaching at Groningen, in addition to a first-year seminar on “Early American Culture,” a third-year course on (the denial of) class issues in the United States, and a graduate theory seminar on “Identity in Postethnic America.” One of the many things I thoroughly enjoy about teaching American Studies at Groningen is the opportunity to teach students at all undergraduate and graduate levels and accompany them from the first semester to (in many cases) the completion of their MA degree.

My book publications include studies on Inter-American literary and cultural relations (Do the Americas Have a Common Literary History?, edited with Barbara Buchenau, Annette Paatz, and Rolf Lohse; Peter Lang, 2002; Intercultural Negotiations in the Americas and Beyond, a special issue of Comparative Literature and Culture Web 32 (2001) http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/), edited with Barbara Buchenau; and Negotiations of America’s National Identity, edited with Roland Hagenbüchle and Josef Raab; Stauffenburg, 2000) as well as a study of Emily Dickinson’s letter manuscripts (A Vice for Voices: Reading Emily Dickinson’s Correspondence; University of Massachusetts Press, 2001). In addition, I am managing editor (since 2007) of the series Interamericana: Inter-American Literary History and Culture (a series devoted to publications on American literatures and cultures in comparative, hemispheric, transatlantic, and transpacific contexts, published by Peter Lang Verlag).
**Derek Rubin**
I was born in South Africa in 1954, grew up in Israel, and have lived in the Netherlands since 1976. I teach in the American Studies program at Utrecht University, and from 2001 to 2004 I was coordinator of Scenarios for the Humanities, a cross-disciplinary program in the Research Institute for Culture and History of the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University. I have taught American literature at various universities in the Netherlands and, as a Fulbright scholar, at the State University of New York at New Paltz. I have lectured widely in the Netherlands and in the United States, at Princeton, UCLA, and the University of New Hampshire, among other universities. I have published articles on Saul Bellow, Philip Roth, Paul Auster, and the younger generation of Jewish American fiction writers.


**Marja Roholl**

Binnen het NASA bestuur vertegenwoordig ik met Diederik Oostdijk de continuiteit: ik ben de afgelopen drie jaar secretaris geweest en daarvoor lid. In deze periode ben ik bij allerlei NASA activiteiten betrokken geweest: bij het organiseren van congressen (American Culture in the Netherlands, the American Metropolis, jubileum congres 30 jaar NASA), het redigeren van de congres bundels e.d. En we hopen ook in de nabije toekomst voor de NASA leden relevante en interessante initiatieven te ontwikkelen.
Astrid Böger
Born in Bremen in 1967 and having spent most of my life in various parts of Germany, I started working at Radboud University Nijmegen as an Associate Professor of American Studies (UHD) in the fall of 2005. Previously, I was Assistant Professor of American Studies at Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany, where I received both my MA (1994) and PhD degrees (2000). Over the course of my graduate student career I also spent several years at Duke University, North Carolina, in the literature and English Departments. I was also a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in 2002-03, when I researched my postdoctoral thesis (Habilitationsschrift) on the early American world’s fairs in all the American cities that hosted them (i.e. New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Francisco), which will be published in the winter of 2008/09. My PhD thesis, published in 2001 and titled People’s Lives, Public Images: The New Deal Documentary Aesthetic, discusses documentary literature, photography, and film of the 1930s. My other research interests include American literature and culture from the 19th century to the present, transnational visual culture, gender studies, and global popular culture. At Radboud University, I teach courses on American literature, cultural studies, popular culture, multiculturalism, as well as theories of American studies. Personally, I believe there is no area that’s more exciting—as well as challenging—than American studies today.

The 16th NASA Amerikanistendag
Transatlantic Ties: The Netherlands and America

This sixteenth annual collective Netherlands American Studies event on 7 March 2008 promised to be a big one. With names like Twan Huys, Max Westerman, Ruth Oldenziel, and Guido van Rijn on the bills, the American Studies program of the Radboud University Nijmegen wanted to celebrate its twentieth anniversary in style. The study association USA Nijmegen and the organizing committee delivered an outstanding performance in bringing this whole event together. It drew a record number of participants: 180.

After some opening remarks from Professor Hans Bak from the Radboud University, thanking everyone and introducing the theme of the day, transatlantic ties, Twan Huys started the plenary session with his keynote lecture. Taking up the theme from a personal point of view, he told the audience about being a correspondent in Washington (and New York), and about the White House tactics against our very own prime ministers. He argued that in the case of “leaders coming together and deciding”, there is no such thing as transatlantic ties between the Netherlands and America, but that it is simply a one-way street. With humor, Huys captivated his audience. This led to many questions at the end of his speech. Not surprisingly, most of them were aimed at the
recent elections. Huys did not want to make a prediction about the winner, but did have a lot to say about the topic. He stressed the democratic talent to lose, even in a win-win situation like they were in at the beginning of primary season, and he warned about the democrats destroying each other, giving McCain an easy race. Also, he mentioned Bill Clinton’s devastating effect on Hillary’s campaign and Bush’s “Kiss of Death” for the McCain team. So much more could have been said about these topics, but the time for the workshops had arrived.

Workshops
The workshops amply reflected the wide variety of topics within American Studies. For the more literary minded American Studies scholars, for example, there was a great workshop on literature. With three students (one from Nijmegen, and two from Utrecht) illuminating their thesis subjects with the help of highly sophisticated models of literary analysis, moderated by Dr. Derek Rubin from the University of Utrecht, the real literature junkie got what he needed. Many more people attended the workshop on politics and business. With topics as Vietnam and the foreign policy debates, the European influence on the New Deal, and Campaign financing, these workshops struck a chord for many students. The workshops on Transatlantic Ties and Leadership had to be combined due to cancellations, which lead to a huge crowd here too. The liveliest discussions were to be found in the first workshop, on “New Directions in American Studies.” Moderated by Dr. Astrid Böger from the Radboud University, five students from Nijmegen, who had been working on this theme during the last semester in a course actually taught by Dr. Böger herself, discussed movies, novels, and American Identity in line with the theme of the future of our chosen academic field. Fulbright Professor Mark C. Miller was there to provide comments, but he had an easy job. The audience regularly took over his task and heated debate (especially on the topic of Hispanization and immigration) arose (especially when one of the presenters said that one should be careful when talking about immigration not to lose sight of reality over political correctness). With students from the USA present in the room, topics were discussed from all angles, and the debate covered all topics one could imagine in this context. Thanks to the wonderful moderating skills of Dr. Böger, the group did not lose sight of the topic, and in my eyes, this workshop was very productive.

Sessions
After a great lunch—again our thanks goes out to the organization—it was time for the “bigger” sessions. The first session covered, as moderator Dr. Jaap Verheul from the University of Utrecht said, “the fun element of American Studies”, being popular culture. With Dr. Guido van Rijn, the audience got a chance to ponder and listen to Blues songs covering black education in the past. After that, we had an international speaker, Dr. Martin Butler from the University of Duisburg-Essen, who discussed Woody Guthrie and his political associations and influences, especially concerning the image of California as the promised land. Both were really interesting, but the real “fun part”, say the “laid back” part, of this session came from several students who had responded to the call to present their favorite political pop song. The audience did not know what was coming when Alex van Ommen (University of Utrecht) showed the YouTube clip from Obama Girl with her song “Crush on Obama.” Explaining how this influenced especially younger voters, and how the American youth are more and more involved in elections these days thanks to the “new media”, van Ommen made an excellent point. Too bad that those three talks did take up a lot of time, which left little time for Maarten Zwiers and Melvin Wevers to discuss their favorite political pop song (respectively “Sweet Home Alabama” and “Born in the USA”, the latter being used without consent from Bruce Springsteen in the McCain campaign).
In the other room, there was a session about Environmentalism. Made popular especially by former Vice-President Al Gore and his followers, environmentalism is a big issue nowadays. Luckily, the organization presented this idea in an original context, making this session at least as interesting as the other one. Dr. Ir. Matthijs Kok talked about Katrina and the Dutch contribution to the situation with the waterworks. Dr. Paul F. Hudson from the University of Texas at Austin added to the discussion. Hudson partly blamed the Army Corps of Engineers for not keeping the levees sound. Kok argued that the Corps is just a body, which only handles what they are assigned to do. In line with the day’s concern with transatlantic ties, the session concluded that the US needs to learn from the Netherlands and their management of waterworks. This process has already been set in motion, with a greater awareness of global warming and other environmental issues becoming more important.

**Forum**

Before most people realized it, it was time for the closing session of the day. With an introduction by Max Westerman, and a panel consisting of Petra Stienen from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Ruth Oldenziel from the TU of Eindhoven, Prof. Bruce Kuklick, Fulbright Professor at the Roosevelt Study Center, and Michael Barkin from the US Consulate, this again promised to be a great session. Moderated by Prof. Hans Bak, the discussion would again be back on the topic of Transatlantic Ties and the importance of the Netherlands for the US. Max Westerman argued that this importance mainly lay in the past, with the establishment of “Dutch” settlements, and their mentality of tolerance and liberalism. Professor Oldenziel agreed with Twan Huys that the Dutch influence in official politics is probably quite small. In the field of social politics (e.g. drugs in the 80s, Katrina now), however, the Dutch still have a strong position as mediators in international debates. Michael Barkin, being a US citizen of course, admitted that although the Netherlands might be important for the US, obviously, they are not the most important partners.

Bruce Kuklick, who wondered why the Dutch kept asking the question of whether or not they are important to the US, could not have agreed more, but suggested more attention be paid to the study of bicycles! Still, we are the third largest investor in the United States, and 40,000 Americans have chosen to live in the Netherlands. Also, the old cultural ties link the countries forever. Again, this session was over before most of us wanted it to end. Debate was heated,
important issues were raised, and keynote speakers were adored and/or criticized. This was a
day most American Studies students dream of, and it was perfectly run by the American
studies association USA Nijmegen and the department of American Studies at Nijmegen. It
was a most enjoyable and educational day for all present. A big thanks to all who contributed
to making the 16th Amerikanistendag the successful event that it was.

Els Hekkenberg (RU Nijmegen)

IRAK, VIJF JAAR NA DE VAL

Herinneren doet een ieder op zijn of haar eigen manier—and dat geldt ook voor het conflict in
Irak. Voor Koerden, Sjiieten en Soennieten betekende de geallieerde inval in Irak in maart
2003, geleid door de Amerikanen, ongetwijfeld een belangrijke wending in een strijd die
echter al veel langer een bloedig verloop had. De Amerikaanse krijgsmacht had iets meer dan
tien jaar eerder zich al actief toeged in Irak, vooral in het Zuiden (de Tweede Golfoorlog in
operaties namen eveneens Nederlandse militairen deel). Britse troepen deden ook mee aan
beide operaties, maar zij hadden een veel langere geschiedenis in Irak. Zoals Rory Stewart
schreef in zijn interessante boek Occupational Hazards: My Time Governing in Iraq (in de
Verenigde Staten uitgegeven als The Prince of the Marshes) herinnerden lokale leiders hem er
regelmatig aan hoe zijn Britse voorgangers na de Eerste Wereldoorlog toch veel betere
bestuurders waren.

Toen President George W. Bush op 19 maart jongstleden een speech gaf om de inval in Irak
to herdenken, wenste hij zich vooral te herinneren dat door de oorlog Saddam Hoessein was
afgezet en dat daarmee veel Irakezen enorm leed werd bespaard. Bush sprak over de operatie
“Iraqi Freedom” als een toonbeeld van militaire effectiviteit en benadrukte dat een jaar
geleden door een toename van het aantal Amerikaanse troepen (“the surge”) de extremistische
elementen in Irak onderdrukt werden. Uiteindelijk plaatste Bush het conflict in Irak in de
context van de strijd tegen terrorisme en met name tegen Al Qaida.

Elke herinnering is selectief en die van Bush ook. De president zocht vooral naar succes, waar
anderen eerder fouten, tegenslagen en problemen zagen. Het is opmerkelijk dat de president
niet meer over de massavernietigingswapens sprak, die de officiële aanleiding voor de
interventie waren. Dat er geen massavernietigingswapens in Irak waren was niet alleen een
foute inschatting, met grote gevolgen, maar duidt ook op een structureel probleem over de
vergaring en interpretatie van inlichtingengegevens. Bush bleef een belangrijke band zien
between Irak en terrorisme, maar dat verband is vooral door de Amerikaanse aanwezigheid in
Irak ontstaan, en niet zozeer omdat die banden er al waren. Bovendien heeft de manier van
aanpak van terrorisme in Irak en daarbuiten ernstige schade toegebracht aan de reputatie (zo
men wil, soft power) van de Verenigde Staten door martelpraktijken in Abu Ghraib,
Guantanamo Bay en de geheime gevangenissen van de CIA.

Bush sprak wel over de meer dan 4.400 Amerikaanse militairen die in de War on Terror zijn
gestorven, maar noemde niet de vele Iraakse doden ten gevolge van de Amerikaanse bezetting
(de schattingen daarvan lopen enorm uiteen van 100.000 tot meer dan een miljoen). De
president sprak eveneens niet over het gebrek aan planning voor de bezetting van Irak, dat
desastreuze gevolgen had. Over dat laatste onderwerp is al een respectabele hoeveelheid
literatuur verschenen, met als belangrijke boeken George Packers The Assassin’s Gate:
America in Iraq, Michael R. Gordon en Bernard E. Trainors Cobra II: The Inside Story of the
Invasion and Occupation of Iraq en Thomas E. Ricks Fiasco: The American Military
Adventure in Iraq. Maar niet alleen journalisten schreven over dit probleem. Diverse Amerikaanse beleidsmakers kwamen naar buiten met hun visie op wat en waarom er zoveel was misgegaan en, natuurlijk, dat het niet aan hen had gelegen. Bob Woodward was een spreekbuis voor een aantal politici en beleidsmedewerkers in zijn trilogie over de regering Bush (Bush at War, Plan of Attack, State of Denial). Andere medewerkers kwamen met hun eigen boek naar buiten, zoals voormalig CIA-directeur George Tenet en Generaal Tommy Franks (de commandant van de Irak operatie) of doen dat binnenkort, zoals voormalig staatssecretaris van Defensie Douglas Feith (die verantwoordelijk was voor planning).

Herinneren, niet-herinneren of anders herinneren zijn belangrijke activiteiten om persoonlijke en politieke redenen. Ten tijde van het kiezen van een nieuwe president hoopt men tevens op overwegingen als verbeteren en voorkomen. Vorig jaar scoorden de Democratische Presidentskandidaten nog erg goed met hun oppositie tegen de Amerikaanse aanwezigheid in Irak. Doordat de “surge” tot minder slachtoffers heeft geleid, zowel onder de Irakezen als de Amerikaanse soldaten, is het Iraakse conflict minder prominent aanwezig in de debatten van de Democraten (hoogstens nog om aan te geven dat Hillary Clinton de inval in Irak steunde en Barack Obama niet). De Republikeinse kandidaten, en met name John McCain, zijn de aanwezigheid in Irak, als onderdeel van de oorlog tegen terrorisme, blijven steunen. Maar het is nog niet duidelijk of de “surge” structurele veranderingen in Irak heeft aangebracht of dat alleen de conflicten tijdelijk zijn bevrogen.

Ongeacht de selectieve herinneringen van President Bush heeft de Amerikaanse inval in Irak om de verkeerde redenen plaatsgevonden, waarbij de rol van het Witte Huis cruciaal is geweest. De inlichtingendiensten hebben niet alleen een verkeerde inschatting gemaakt, maar stonden ook constant onder druk van het Witte Huis om met gegevens te komen die acties in Irak zouden ondersteunen. Het Congres heeft met een ruime meerderheid het beleid van de president gesteund. Het Witte Huis zette militaire commandanten die een afwijkende mening uitten al snel aan de kant—dat gebeurde in 2003 met de chef staf van de landmacht Generaal Eric K. Shinseki toen hij getuigde voor het Congres dat er enkele honderdduizenden militairen nodig waren voor de bezetting van Irak (en Donald Rumsfeld maar 140.000 soldaten wilde sturen) en recentelijk met Admiraal William Fallon, die de leiding had over Central Command (de regio waarin onder andere Afghanistan en Irak vallen) en die een diplomatiekere aanpak van Iran wilde. Het lijkt er op dat het Witte Huis in alle gevallen zijn politieke agenda er door drukte en daarmee zowel het checks-and-balances systeem met het Congres als de adviseursrol van hoge officieren heeft ondergraven. Naast alle herinneringen over vijf jaar Amerikaanse militaire aanwezigheid in Irak zou ik graag willen horen hoe dergelijke problemen in de toekomst voorkomen kunnen worden.

Ruud Janssens, hoogleraar Amerikanistiek, Universiteit van Amsterdam
EAAS NIEUWS

European Association of American Studies Conference
Oslo, 9-12 May 2008

The bi-annual conference of EAAS recently took place in Oslo, with around 300 participants attending and 27 workshops taking place over three days. The conference attracted the largest national contingent from the US (34), but the French, not to be outdone on European soil, also turned up in force (33). The conference was an ideal opportunity for the EAAS journal, EJAS, to recruit articles, and there was a strong sense that after two years EJAS is now being recognized as an ideal destination for publishable research from the EAAS community of American Studies scholars. Alongside their intellectual activities, the conference participants also benefited from the hospitality of the city council, who hosted a wonderful reception in the city hall, and some of them even had the privilege of a reception at the US embassy. However, the prices for beverages in Oslo were too high for any serious partying, and for this reason the participants applaud the decision to hold the next EAAS conference in Dublin in 2010.

EJAS
European Journal of American Studies

EJAS has now been online for almost 2 years, and is gradually establishing itself as a peer-reviewed outlet for the whole range of fields that fall under the title “American Studies.” The first issue, covering the state of play in American Studies in nations across Europe, went online at the end of 2006. Since the, three more issues are posted on the website. In line with the dominant trend of the past decade or more, the majority of submissions have so far been in the cultural/literary area. While this is partly to be expected, the editors would like to encourage anyone in the history/politics/international relations fields to consider EJAS as an outlet for their work. Other submissions based on scholarly analyses of current-day developments are welcome. Selected articles from the 2008-I issue are:

- Bruce Kuklick: History and Policy: The Case of Iraq
- Laurence Raw: Evolving Attitudes To the American Dream: Death of a Salesman in the Turkish Context
- Fabienne Collignon: Aberrations in the Heartland. An interview with Rachel Chavkin, Artistic Director of T.E.A.M.
- Richard Cole: A Mirror Image of Sigmund Skard? Paul Knaplund and the Role of the Historian between European and American Cultures

For the previous issues, please visit the EJAS website: http://ejas.revues.org
The editors would also like to announce the following:

**Special Issue 2008:**

**We Are All Undesirables: May 68 and the Legacy of the 1960s**

Coinciding with the 40th anniversary of May 68, the editors of EJAS welcome article submissions for a Special Issue on the following:

1) The impact of the 1960s on US politics, society, and culture, and the connections between similar developments on both sides of the Atlantic

2) The theory, practice, and long-running effects of 60s radicalism in politics and the arts in both Europe and North America.

**FOR ENQUIRIES AND SUBMITTING ARTICLES**

Contributions in the fields of literature, culture and the arts: ejas-lit@eaas.info

Contributions in the fields of history and social sciences: rsc@zeeland.nl

**ASN BOOKPRIZE**

The American Studies Network (ASN) is a group of European centers involved in American Studies. The idea of a network of centers arose during the European Association for American Studies (EAAS) meeting in London in April, 1990. The ASN was founded in November, 1990 in Berlin at a meeting of interested directors of American Studies centers. The initial group of eight members has expanded to include 20 members from all over Europe.

One of the specific ASN projects is the establishment of the American Studies Network Book Prize, a prize of €1,000 for a remarkable book published in English by a European scholar on any aspect of American Studies. The jury for that biennial prize, presented at the EAAS conferences, is comprised of representatives from the EAAS and the ASN.

Jacqueline Fear-Sagal has been awarded **The American Studies Network Book Prize 2008** for her book “White Man’s Club: Schools, Race, and the Struggle of Indian Acculturation” (University of Nebraska Press, 2007). Her book describes the US school system for Native children in a broad context of race relations in the United States. Fear-Sagal analyzes various schools and their agendas by engaging in how they implemented white discourse of race in their pedagogical methods. These methods resulted in an unwanted phenomenon: the Native-American children became more and more racialized. She challenges former research for emphasizing too much the white man’s ‘overtly optimistic assessment of Indians’ capacity to assimilate and argues that the racial agenda was present in the schools from the beginning.
NIEUWS VAN HET ROOSEVELT STUDY CENTER

Report on the 2008 AIO Seminars at the RSC

This year the first two AIO seminars at the Roosevelt Study Center were hosted by Bruce Kuklick. He is the Nichols Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently writing a book at the RSC on American political history called: *One Nation Under God*. The purpose of the exercise of the AIO seminar in general is to give Dutch PhD students in American Studies new insights on their subjects and to stimulate them to think about the various aspects of writing a dissertation and conducting academic research. The topic of the AIO seminar on 5 March was the Puritan tradition. The participants were asked to consider the importance of this tradition within American history and search for connections with their own scholarly work. The PhD students were also asked: How can non-American scholars contribute to the understanding of American history? All students were asked to answer this and briefly outline their topic. I, as intern of the RSC, attended as a graduate student.

First the Puritan tradition was discussed in the light of some key texts from the 17th through the 20th century. Because not all students that were present were equally familiar with early American history, Prof. Kuklick began the session with a basic history lesson on the Pilgrims, Virginia and the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The texts that related to these subjects were the “History of Plymouth Plantation” by William Bradford and “A Model of Christian Charity,” the famous sermon by John Winthrop. Themes within these texts are the importance of the Spirit of God’s Grace, Providence and deliverance from the hand of the oppressor. Also Justice, Mercy and the Law of Grace and Nature were important aspects because the Puritans in this New World realized their experiment was “…as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us.”

Similar attitudes and almost identical language was found in the other texts that were read: in Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural and his Gettysburg Address, Winston Churchill’s diary during the Second World War, and also in the NSC 68, where the United States objectives and programs for National Security during the Cold War are spelled out. When looking at these similarities and continuities, speeches such as the Inaugural Address by John F. Kennedy and the speech by Martin Luther King at the Lincoln Memorial on 28 August 1963 can be understood and appreciated. These continuities induce the question why the language and themes from documents so many years apart, within different contexts are in fact similar.

New Beginnings
The answer, according to Kuklick and after the seminar according to several students as well, lies in the Puritan tradition of new beginnings under the Grace of God. Even though some politicians do not share that particular religious expression, the United States still remains “One Nation Under God” that feels as if the eyes of the world are upon them. Prof. Kuklick explained that apart from this Puritan tradition, the Enlightenment contributed to these continuities as well, this was the topic of the second AIO seminar on 15 April.

The session began with a reading of a late-Puritan text: “Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God” written by Jonathan Edwards in 1741. After Prof. Kucklick drew an interesting contrast between the close but angry God and the distant but happy-looking Divinity of the Enlightenment, we discussed the continuity in the rhetoric of these two seemingly opposing beliefs. The American Enlightenment was a time of traditional Protestant decline in public
life, but certain ideas that originated from the Puritans continued to be important. The notion that all men were equal in the eyes of God, and the belief that all men were sinners remained.

In the “heart and soul” of the Enlightenment tradition, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Federalist Papers, these conceptions are vividly apparent. All men are created equal, but they are likely to be corrupt and must therefore be restrained, the government as well as the citizens. These public political documents adhered to the egalitarianism of the Puritans, only they added the individualistic and empiricist elements of the Enlightenment.

Echoes of the Puritans
Prof. Kuklick paid special attention to the texts of Abraham Lincoln and the reason why he decided to go to war. The “Gettysburg Address” and the “Speech at Cooper Union” were both an expression of the Romantic idea of the nation as an organic unity. The American rights of the people, not individual inherited rights were perceived as the most important rights in the world. It appeared that to Lincoln, the social contact was considered less important than the belief that “… this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.” This shows how the Puritan unity trumped the Enlightenment ideal of individualism.

Other texts that were discussed concerned either individualism or speeches that were intended to appeal to American unity: “The Ballad of Davy Crockett,” “The Four Freedoms Speech,” and President Reagan’s “Speech at Pointe du Hoc.” Also Benjamin Franklin’s autobiography was discussed which led to interesting insights in his “practical” behavior. And to meet the American Studies cultural component we also discussed a literary text of Nathaniel Hawthorne “The Birthmark” that reads as a commentary on the Puritan ideal of human perfection, but could also be seen as a rejection of increasing scientific consideration of Nature.

All these discussions were an enlightenment in itself. For the first time I, as a graduate student, had discussed American political history in a small seminar with an American history teacher that passionately spoke of the events that created his own country. Especially the Puritan tradition appeared to me in a different light. Mostly these religious founders are ridiculed as fanatics, but to see their continuous influence in important secular events as well, gave a more linear and clear insight in the American way. It seems to me that Prof. Kuklick was right when he commented on the weak position history often has in the American Studies departments in the Netherlands. Although I am a great fan of literature, popular culture and other cultural studies, history remains the backbone that needs constant attention.

Kirsten Virágh
Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards of the Roosevelt Study Center 2008

On 14 March the Roosevelt Study Center presented the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards (TRAHA). From 1987 onwards this prize has been awarded annually for M.A. theses on subjects dealing with American history. The objective of this prize is to stimulate the study of United States history and culture in the Netherlands and to encourage students to use the archival resources on American history at the Roosevelt Study Center (RSC) that are unique in Europe. The annual prize is named after Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States who was, besides a politician, a historian as well. His four-volume of *The Winning of the West* is considered a classic. In his 1912 presidential address for the American Historical Association, entitled “History and Literature”, TR emphasized the importance of the epic literary tradition, the importance of writing with “imaginative power” in order to revive the past. The essays that were presented were judged on this aspect, as well as on originality, structure, factual content, analysis, argumentation and interpretation. Additionally the value of the conclusion and its contribution to the understanding of America was considered and the sources used and insight in the historical process.

This year, for the first time, the TRAHA was held in the RSC library, situated in the “Kapittelzaal” at the Abby in Middelburg, underneath the watchful eyes of Theodore Roosevelt’s imposing portrait. The seven nominees were from five different universities, Bertien Kuiper from Groningen, Inez Schippers from Utrecht, Jeroen van Hilten from Nijmegen and Jasper Verschoor and Marleen de Kleijn from Amsterdam and finally Mandy Tröger and Sabrina Otterloo from Leiden. The jury panel consisted of Prof. Adam Fairclough of Leiden University, Dr. Jaap Kooijmans from the University of Amsterdam and Drs. Jaap Pieter Deams who won the TRAHA in 2007. Unfortunately both Marleen de Kleijn and Jaap Kooijmans were unable to attend the award ceremony. The program of the day included a short presentation by each thesis author about their subject and their research experience. This was followed by the presentation of the jury report and the prizes. After the ceremony the party enjoyed a lunch at a local restaurant.

After the presentation of the graduates on their writing experience, enjoyed by some more than others, the jury report gave an overall impression of the papers and announced the winners. All prizes included a diploma, a Theodore Roosevelt medal and a book with essays written by TR. The jurors noticed that five topics discussed aspects of war and foreign policy, from a European as well as an American perspective. The third prize winner of €125, Marleen de Kleijn, wrote her thesis on the parallel between the transnational EU identity and the national US identity approached both historically and culturally. The second prize of €250
was awarded to Mandy Tröger who wrote a very interesting paper on the American cultural influence in Eastern Germany, rejecting the solely political identity mostly used to describe the people this former nation. The jurors were enthusiastic about this thesis because of the innovative combination between empirical and theoretical methods. The first prize, a trip to New York, was given to Sabrina Otterloo. According to the jury the quality of her paper was far beyond what can be expected of an MA thesis. Otterloo’s dissertation was on *The War on Walter Lipman: How Lyndon B. Johnson Handled His First Among Critics* and covered the relationship between a manipulative president and the most prominent and most influential columnist in the United States at that time. The research was very extended and different source material was combined in an enlightened way. The storyline was linear and was clearly centered around the two main characters. Again, the Roosevelt Study Center was proud to award the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards to such talented scholars and is already looking forward to the new entries of MA theses for next year.

Kirsten Virágh

### The Sixth RSC Lecture on Transatlantic Relations by Arjo Klamer

On 19 March 2008, Arjo Klamer, a Professor in Cultural Economics at the Faculty of Arts and Cultural Studies at the Erasmus University Rotterdam spoke about the “Paradox of American Learning.” In his lecture, which was presented with a genuine enthusiasm for academic learning, Klamer presented two contradictions of “Americanization” within Dutch higher education. After the introduction by Kees van der Minnen, director of the RSC, he began his talk explaining that he would not lecture as a Dutch professor from behind a lecturer, but as an American academic exchanging views with the audience.

The first paradox Klamer encountered within the Dutch and American higher education concerned the financial basis of academic institutes. In the Netherlands, Universities are funded by the government, creating an image of an independent and non-businesslike environment. The tuition is low, students receive stipends and education is accessible to many. The American system on the other hand is financed mostly by collecting high tuitions and donations from alumni, companies, foundations, and other philanthropic institutions. One would imagine that, regarding the overall image of the American culture and the height of tuition fees, these Universities would function more as businesses compared Dutch universities. The experience of Professor Klamer, however, contradicts this image. He
explained how, within the Dutch system, he is regarded as a producer that needs to meet the wishes of the customer, the student, through evaluation forms. Investments are made concerning the input, and a certain output is expected. The financial incentive for theses, PhDs and the amount of students, contribute to this feeling as does the continuous questioning of students about their education: “Which particular goal does my education serve?”

In the United States, Klamer argues, he hardly ever encountered this question by his students. When he taught at the Universities of Wellesley, Duke and Iowa, he was never evaluated or needed to fill in numerous forms concerning his and his students’ competencies. Another contradiction within this paradox is that due to the huge supply of bachelor opleidingen in the Netherlands, different faculties compete with one another for students. Because of the financial incentive and the minimum requirements of students for a study to survive, the University becomes a confusing marketplace where young students are apt to make wrong choices.

In the United States, the two most common classes of bachelor degrees awarded by US schools are the bachelor of science degree, and the bachelor of arts degree. Therefore Arjo Klamer favors Liberal Arts Colleges as the foundation of higher education for all future students, not only because of the negative competition among faculties, but also for the academic benefit of students. This is a college or university curriculum aimed at imparting general knowledge and developing general intellectual capacities, in contrast to a professional, vocational, or technical curriculum. These colleges also encourage a high level of teacher-student interaction. Originated in the Classical period, this form of education consists of theology, literature, languages, philosophy, history, mathematics, and science, thus providing a traditional academic basis. Klamer emphasizes the importance of classic texts, not only from antiquity but from all stages in history. An example he showed during his lecture was Alexis de Toqueville’s Democracy in America.

This brings us to the second paradox Arjo Klamer encountered, the differences in Dutch and American intellectual life. He explained that although university campuses in the United States thrive, outside these academic flower beds, intellectual life is hardly seen. This stands in contrast with Dutch intellectuals, who pursue careers in many different fields, within business areas as well as the public arena. American intellectuals stick to their own fields, and therefore miss out, according to Arjo Klamer. It is important to use intellectual capacities in every sphere of activity. He does argue however, that there is a greater sense of the “university for life” in the States than in the Netherlands. This difference could be attributed to the business-like environment and aim of studies within Dutch universities and the lack of a close teacher-student relationships. Also the alumni environment is much more alive in the United States because these former students invest in “their” universities, which creates a greater sense of community within campus life.

These two paradoxes, which actually entail many contradictions, are important aspects of higher learning. The avoidance of a business-like organization within universities, the structure of basic bachelor programs and the use of the institutions of higher learning in order to help students to flourish can hopefully simplify and reorganize the chaos the Dutch educational system is currently in. Students are not able to academically grow and develop
themselves as they should be, because of the complex supply of opleidingen. Institutions such as the Roosevelt Academy and University College Utrecht already provide some of the aspects Arjo Klamer fervently promotes. He therefore initiated his own college as well, Academia Vitae in Deventer, where high school students, future bachelor students and professionals can be educated in the tradition of Liberal Arts and where they can flourish academically.

Kirsten Virágh

“A Spiritual Invasion?” Amerikaanse Invloeden op het Nederlandse Christendom

Conferentieverslag
De laatste vrijdag van april stond op het Roosevelt Study Center in het teken van de conferentie “A Spiritual Invasion? Amerikaanse invloeden op het Nederlandse Christendom, georganiseerd door George Harinck (directeur van het Historisch Documentatiecentrum voor het Nederlandse Protestantisme) en Hans Krabbendam (Roosevelt Study Center). De conferentie werd bezocht door 50 geïnteresseerden, die door de uitwisseling van kritische vragen en opmerkingen tijdens de discussies, deze dag tot een succes hebben gemaakt. De dag werd geopend door Fiek Smitskamp, voorzitter van NieuwZout, een provinciale culturele stichting, wier bijdrage deze dag mede mogelijk heeft gemaakt. Het programma van hun stichting heeft dit jaar het thema Cultuur, Wereldbeeld en Religie omarmd, wat uiteraard uitstekend aansloot bij het onderwerp van de conferentie. Zij gaf aan dat naast het feit dat Amerika op dit moment weer vol in de belangstelling staat vanwege de verkiezingen en de rol van religie daarin, het project ook belangrijk is voor verbreding en verdieping van de kennis die Nederlanders hebben van Amerika en van hun godsdienst. Historisch gezien heeft er altijd een religieuze uitwisseling plaats gevonden tussen Nederland en Amerika, maar tijdens de conferentie lag de focus op de export van religie vanuit Amerika naar Nederland, die begon in de negentiende eeuw. Het draaide hierbij niet alleen om geloofsuitwisseling, maar tevens om het “openen van een venster op beide culturen”, zoals Fiek Smitskamp in haar openingsspeech helder verwoordde.
**Nederlandse context**


**Amerikaanse zendingsdrang**

Na Harinck betrad de historicus Hans Krabbendam het podium. Hij hield een betoog over de Amerikaanse drijfveren voor zendingsactiviteiten in Nederland, vertegenwoordigd door de vroege aanwezigheid van de Amerikaanse jongerenorganisatie Youth for Christ. Waar Nederlandse (kerkelijke) autoriteiten zich na de oorlog grote zorgen maakten over de vermeende verwildering van de jeugd, barstte Amerika juist van het idealisme, zoals alleen al bleek uit de Marshallhulp. In 1946, het jaar waarin de evangelist Billy Graham voor het eerst Nederland bezocht, kwamen de eerste vijf Youth for Christ-teams naar Europa. Deze Amerikaanse evangelicals keerden zich tegen dode orthodoxie en religieuze behoudzucht en benadrukten daartegenover individuele spiritualiteit en interkerkelijke samenwerking. Deze vorm van protestantisme was meer op de praktijk gericht en leidde dan ook tot de oprichting van een nieuw verschijnsel, de bijbelschool. Emoties, bekering, gelijkheid, de vrije menselijke wil en ontmoeting (koffiebars) vervingen theologische bezinning. Volgens Krabbendam droeg Youth for Christ bij een democratisering van de kerk van onderop, waardoor het monopolie van de predikant steeds verder werd aangetast. Belangrijke resultaten van de komst van Youth for Christ naar Nederland waren de hergroepering van de orthodox-protestantse wereld en de groeiende aandacht voor emoties en beleving binnen de gevestigde kerken.

**Reformatorische dammen**

Na een korte pauze informeerde religieus antropoloog Peter Versteeg de zaal over hoe de reformatorische gelovigen in Nederland de invloed van buitenaf tot vandaag de dag heeft weten te weren. De identiteit van de Reformatorisch en in Nederland wordt bepaald door het vasthouden aan de oude waarheid en aan een traditionele levensstijl. In de 20ste eeuw heeft de komst van de verzuiling en het evangelicale variant van het protestantisme weinig invloed op deze “ultracalvinisten”: ze staan ideologisch en sociaal wantrouwend tegenover verandering. Versteeg legde dit vervolgens uit aan de hand van het sociologische model van H.C. Stoffels dat het handelen van religieuze groepen in een samenleving verklaart aan de hand van twee peilers: 1) het ervaren machtsverschil van de groep t.o.v. van de samenleving en 2) het ervaren cultuurverschil van de groep t.o.v. de samenleving. De reformatorischen beschouwen de culturele afstand tot de samenleving als groot en zien zichzelf als weinig invloedrijk binnen het christendom. Het verschil met de evangelischen is dat deze groep zich positiever opstelt tegenover de samenleving en zelfverzekerd is over de mate van invloed van christenen op de maatschappij. Het theologische verschil tussen de evangelischen en de reformatorischen is dat de eerste groep in staat is de vorm van hun religieuze bemiddeling aan
te passen aan een specifieke groep en tijd zonder dat de inhoudelijke boodschap verandert. De tweede groep ervaart de relatie tussen vorm en inhoud als een eenheid, waardoor het veel moeilijker is om veranderingen te aanvaarden. Daarom zal deze groep het langer volhouden om invloeden van buitenaf te weren.

**Creationisme versus evolutionisme**

De godsdienstfilosoof Taede Smedes besprak in zijn lezing het debat over het creationisme versus het evolutionisme aan de hand van *Intelligent Design*, een recente religieuze ontwikkeling in de Verenigde Staten die in 2005 is overgewaaid naar Nederland. Deze theorie trekt de leer van het Darwinisme in twijfel en grijpt terug op de schepping als verklaring voor natuurlijke verschijnselen. De kernvraag van Smedes’ betoog is: Wat is de daadwerkelijke invloed van het Amerikaanse *Intelligent Design* (ID) op de Nederlandse versie? Het grote verschil tussen de twee landen lijkt te zijn dat de Nederlandse discussie zich voornamelijk richt op de reikwijdte van wetenschappelijke verklaringen, terwijl het in de VS niet draait om de wetenschap, maar om de religie. Volgens de Amerikaanse aanhangers van ID ligt het Darwinisme aan de basis van de Westerse visie op politiek, religie, en maatschappij. Dit leidt volgens hen tot “morally outrageous behavior.” De evolutietheorie is geen wetenschap maar een ideologie en moet dan ook bestreden worden met behulp van “teaching the controversy”: *Intelligent Design* als een aannemelijk alternatief. Het doel van deze houding is de acceptatie van de waarheidsclaim van het christelijke geloof. Het Nederlandse ID debat is dus meer wetenschappelijk, toegespitst op de plaatselijke cultuur. Smedes sloot zijn lezing met de opmerking dat ID zowel het wantrouwen in de maatschappij tegenover de claims van de wetenschap versterkt, maar ook een brug tussen godsdienst en wetenschap kan worden.

**Gospelmuziek onder immigranten**

Na de lunch sprak Els Dijkerman over de bevindingen van haar onderzoek naar Gospelmuziek in de Nederlandse migrantenkerken. Tijdens haar onderzoek binnen de Praise & Worship kerken kwam ze er al snel achter dat traditionele scheidingen tussen blank en zwart niet meer van belang zijn binnen dit type Gospelmuziek. Het is een verzameling van allerlei richtingen en geeft de globalisering van de Gospel weer (invloeden vanuit Noord-Amerika, Zuid-Amerika en Afrika). Praise & Worship zoekt naar “middle of the road” popsongs: ze zoeken naar overeenkomsten, toegankelijkheid en herkenning. De voorgangers van deze migrantenkerken zijn internationaal gericht en kiezen daarom niet voor Westerse muziek: de muziek moet voor iedereen herkenbaar zijn, wat zich dan ook uit in de taalkeuze. Deze internationale focus heeft geleid tot de vorming van een transnationale, cosmpolitische religieuze beweging die nationale grenzen overstijgt, waaraan de Nederlandse Kerk weinig te bieden heeft. De Amerikaanse invloed op deze Gospelkerken in Nederland is beperkt: de muziek wordt voornamelijk overheerst door de klanken van de Afrikaanse diaspora gericht op vooruitgang, toegankelijkheid, en herkenning.

**Amerikaanse religieuze invloeden op TV**

Tijdens de zesde lezing deelde historicus Remco van Mulligen zijn kennis over de Amerikaanse invloed op de Evangelische Omroep. Na de komst van Billy Graham in de jaren 1950 werd in Nederland het idee ontwikkeld om de evangelisatie te bevorderen via radio en televisie. Meteen vanaf het begin werd de manier van programma maken en de programma-invulling (evolutie, abortus, euthanasie en homoseksualiteit) afgekeken van de Amerikaanse evangelisten. Daarnaast is de EO-Jongerendag het duidelijkste voorbeeld van Amerikaanse beïnvloeding: de grootschaligheid, de toegankelijke muziek, de eenvoudige preken en de vele Amerikaanse sterren. In laatste jaren van de 20ste en in het begin van de 21ste eeuw is de tactiek van de omroep is verschoven van confronterend en direct naar positief en verzoenend.
Tevens is er meer aandacht voor de niet-christenen in de Nederlandse samenleving en is de religieuze boodschap minder Amerikaans evanglicaal. Van Mulligen concludeerde dat de Amerikaanse invloed duidelijk aanwezig was/is bij de EO. Vanaf de oprichting van de omroep gebruikten deze pioniers Amerikaanse expertise, vooraanstaande creationisten kregen veel zendtijd en er werd gebruik gemaakt van evanglicale modellen. Dat proces maakte de EO niet tot een kopie van het Amerikaanse voorbeeld. De Nederlandse dominees preken op minder dramatische wijze dan hun Amerikaanse collega’s en er wordt ook niet aan grootschalige fondsenwerving gedaan. Daarnaast zijn ook EO-leden zelf kritisch op de Amerikaanse traditie. Uiteindelijk is volgens Andries Knevel een combinatie van de anti-revolutionaire Nederlandse traditie met de Amerikaanse evanglicale tradities ideaal voor de EO. Helaas is een evanglicale-reformatorische Kerk nog niet gerealiseerd, maar dankzij de EO wel dichterbij gekomen.

**Jehova’s Getuigen blijven zichzelf**

Zelfstandig onderzoeker Henri Knol besprak de vraag of de Nederlandse Jehova’s Getuigen een Nederlandse variant was of een Amerikaans duplicaat. In 1922 werd in Nederland het eerste bijkantoor van de Jehova’s Getuigen opgericht. Het doel was de aanbidding van God bevorderen, aanmoedigen tot geloof en bekering en zoveel mogelijk mensen op een hoger geestelijk en zedelijk niveau brengen. Knol concludeerde dat er van een Nederlandse variant van de Jehova’s Getuigen nauwelijks gesproken kan worden, omdat het een strikt hiërarchische organisatie betreft die vanuit New York bestuurd wordt. Voorts zijn de anonieme publicaties die binnen het Nederlandse Wachttoorengootschap circuleren regelrecht uit het Engels vertaald en dus geen producties van eigen bodem. Alleen kort na de Tweede Wereldoorlog was er bij de Nederlandse Jehova’s Getuigen even iets merkbaar van een oranje tintje, toen verscheidene oorlogsslachtoffers hun ervaringen in publicaties van het Wachttoorengootschap ondertekenden met hun initialen, een ongewoon fenomeen binnen deze gemeenschap. Dit verschijnsel was echter van tijdelijke aard. Het gesloten blijven van belangrijke archieven en de geheimzinnigheid rond de organisatie bemoeilijken het trekken van verdere conclusies over het Nederlandse karakter van de Jehova’s Getuigen en zijn een logisch gevolg van de structuur van hun theologische ideeën.

**Mormonen passen zich aan**

In tegenstelling tot de Jehova’s Getuigen vormen de Mormonen een veel minder gesloten genootschap met open archieven, aldus de volgende spreker, insider Hans Noot van de Universiteit Tilburg. Noot nam de lezing over de relatie tussen Nederlandse en Amerikaanse Mormonen voor zijn rekening. Het doel van de zendings van Mormonen in Nederland die in de jaren 1860 begon, was het lokken van bekeerlingen naar “Sion” (lees: de USA). Vanaf het einde van de jaren 1950, toen de Mormonen in Nederland een eigen tempel kregen, nam de emigratie van bekeerlingen echter sterk af. De Amerikaanse invloed op Nederlandse Mormonen in de naoorlogse periode lag volgens Noot op vier terreinen. In de eerste plaats in het Engelse jargon en lesmateriaal, ten tweede in de architectuur en het meubilair van de Mormonentempel, voorts in de businessstijl van de kleding die door Mormonen gedragen wordt en ten slotte in het bestaan van een eigen Nederlands bestuur.

Enne Knoops en Hillie Peters
Book Presentation

Date: 5 June 2008
Location: Roosevelt Study Center, Abdij 8, Middelburg

Giles Scott-Smith of the RSC will be holding a book presentation for his new publication *Networks of Empire: The US State Department’s Foreign Leader Program in the Netherlands, France, and Britain 1950-1970*. The event will begin at 3.30 pm and involve short presentations by Marcel Oomen (Director, NACEE), Petra Stienen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and the author. The guest of honor to receive the first copy of the book is Hans van Mierlo, former Minister of Defense and of Foreign Affairs and former leader of D66.

The presentation will be followed by a reception. Everyone from the NASA is welcome, and if you would like to attend please contact the RSC at rsc@zeeland.nl.

President Theodore Roosevelt to visit Middelburg

26 October 2008 will be the 150th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States from 1901-1909. To celebrate this event, “TR” himself will be visiting the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg on 1 October 2008. The RSC will be the venue for TR to deliver a lecture on his life, times, and political legacy, and he will be available afterwards to answer questions on the development of the presidency since he occupied the Oval Office, and what he would do now were he to be re-elected. The RSC is looking forward to this unique event in the history of Dutch-American relations, and everyone is welcome to join. Please send all enquiries to rsc@zeeland.nl.
Stageplaats Roosevelt Study Center

Het RSC heeft elk kwartaal ruimte voor een stagiair (m/v) in de bibliotheek voor een ouderejaars student Amerikanistiek of Amerikaanse geschiedenis met goede beheersing van de Engelse taal voor een periode van (bij voorkeur) drie maanden. Taken omvatten onder meer bibliotheekbeheer, voorbereiding van conferenties, redactiewerk, ontsluiting archieven, vertalingen, ondersteuning secretariaat en andere voorkomende werkzaamheden. Een deel van de tijd is gereserveerd voor eigen onderzoek.

Het RSC biedt een leerzame en gevarieerde werkomgeving, begeleiding en een standaard stagevergoeding (ongeveer € 240 per maand) en eventueel een tegemoetkoming in huisvestingskosten. De stageperiode is bij uitstek geschikt voor studenten die een loopbaan als onderzoeker overwegen om de praktijk van wetenschappelijk onderzoek mee te maken.

Nadere informatie is te verkrijgen bij Hans Krabbendam, aan wie ook de sollicitatiebrief met cv gericht kan worden. De eerstvolgende vacatures zijn op 1 oktober 2008 en 1 januari 2009. Een sollicitatiebrief kan tot en met één maand voor het begin van de stageperiode ingezonden worden naar Postbus 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg.

FULBRIGHT HOOGLERAREN

Interview Bruce Kuklick

Professor Bruce Kuklick was the Fulbright scholar at the Roosevelt Study Center from January through April 2008. His stay has been a great success for both sides, and therefore his last day on 29 April was a somewhat saddening for all of us at the RSC. Marius Verhage and Hillie Peters decided to interview Professor Kuklick and talked about his personal experiences during his stay in the Netherlands.

First, we asked him what his thoughts were on the Netherlands and Middelburg in particular. His visit to Middelburg was not the first visit to the Netherlands: several years earlier, he stayed in Groningen. The similarities between these two cities are numerous: located in rural areas, not related to the Randstad, and therefore, according to Bruce, much more interesting. The Randstad area is more consolidated and is actually just one big city. To Bruce, this is too much like the area where he lives in the US: a chain of cities e.g. Boston, Washington DC, and Philadelphia. Although the size of the Randstad is much smaller, the living conditions are the same. During his stay in Groningen (15 years ago) Bruce noted that the population had some sort of an inferiority complex: they felt insecure about their location within the Netherlands (distant from the Randstad) and their rural culture. Over the years, Groningen has overcome this image issue, but the people in Middelburg are still struggling with this particular problem. Both outsiders as well as insiders regard this province and its capital as “the end of the world,” closed off from the rest of the country. This problem became
especially apparent during the one month long closing of the railroad tracks due to maintenance. However, both provinces have so much to be proud of.

In the four months at the RSC, Bruce Kuklick finished writing a handbook on American History (1492-present) for use in introductory courses. The focus of the book is limited to US politics, within a religious context. The idea was to write a book concerning the core themes of American history, which could be accompanied by other, more specialized books (e.g. on women’s history). This book will only cover 300 pages, which should make it more readable. He wrote three versions of the last chapter, awaiting the outcome of the 2008 presidential elections. Due to his stay in the Netherlands, Bruce changed his writing to be more accessible to future readers. He was inspired by the Dutch author Jan Terlouw, of whom Bruce read two books during his time in Middelburg (in Dutch!). Terlouw is able to convey a complicated story by using simple words and sentence structures, and Bruce tried to apply this style to his own book. Next to writing this handbook, Bruce traveled extensively throughout the Netherlands. His meeting with DOW, one of the sponsors of his research chair at the RSC, and the visit to the 16th NASA Amerikanistendag are his most memorable activities. He recommends his Fulbright successor at the RSC to do the same: go out and promote the center and moreover, talk about the 2008 elections!

When we talked about the work of the Roosevelt Study Center, Bruce expressed some suggestions for the center and for the Dutch universities, holding an American Studies program. First he proposes that the RSC should work more closely with the Roosevelt Academy in promoting a “university feeling” in Middelburg. Furthermore, the Fulbright commission should try to promote a more intensive cooperation between the different American Studies programs in the Netherlands. The competition between these programs is not effective, because the amount of resources is too small to fight over. Therefore, the RSC should function as a neutral mediator and encourage mutual communication and more visits from students to overcome the “mental distance” between Middelburg and the universities. Our last question concerned the 2008 elections. During his four month stay, Bruce already shared his opinions and knowledge on the 2008 presidential candidates. This time, we asked him about his thoughts on the future vice-president. Of course, he does not know who will become the next vice-president; however, he did tell us that a victory of John McCain could make this issue more salient. McCain will turn 72 during his inauguration. Bruce feels that sooner or later, the vice-president will have to take over his position. It would be very interesting to see how the Democratic candidate will use this in his/her presidential campaign. Bruce thinks that both Obama as well as Clinton would choose a white man as their vice-president, while some his friends at home fear that McCain will select Condoleezza Rice as his vice-president to show that the Republicans are not racists or misogynists.

Marius Verhage en Hillie Peters

Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair

In het najaar van 2008, zal Professor George Magliocca van Indiana University School of Law de Fulbright Dow Distinguished Research Chair aan het RSC bekleden. Hij heeft zich gespecialiseerd in Constitutional Law, Legal History, Intellectual Property, en Torts. Op het Roosevelt Study Center werkt hij aan een onderzoek naar de relatie tussen Huey Long’s “Share our Wealth” movement en Franklin Roosevelt’s visies voor de New Deal en hoe deze relatie mede het constitutionele recht heeft gevormd. Het accent ligt vooral op:
1) the question why many people in 1930s Huey Long as a dictator saw;
2) how advocates, officials and citizens were affected when legal regulations came under pressure;
3) a study into the debate over “the Guarantee Clause of Article Four of the Constitution”;
4) how Long’s death has changed the constitutional right.

**Walt Whitman Chair in American Cultural Studies**

In the second half of the academic year 2008-2009, three Fulbright professors held the Walt Whitman Chair. Professor **Lorrie Goldensohn** will stay at the Free University of Amsterdam. Her academic specialization concerns 19th and 20th-century English and American poetry. In addition, at the Radboud University of Nijmegen Professor **Daniel Morris**, professor in English at the **Purdue University**, West-Lafayette in Indiana. At the University of Leiden is Prof. **Katherina Preston** the Walt Whitman Chair. She is the David N. and Margaret C. Bottom Professor of Music at the **College of William and Mary** in Virginia. Further information can be found in the autumn edition of the NASA-newsbrief.

**CONFERENCES**

**Spring Academy 2008**: A seminar for American Studies

“What is/are American Studies?” This is the question that the fifth Spring Academy included. Since 2004 this Spring Academy has been annually organized by the **Heidelberg Center for American Studies** (HCA) of the Ruprechts-Karl-University. The goal of this seminar, which took place from 21 to 25 April, is to bring together Americanist PhD students from different countries to present their research projects, exchange ideas and follow workshops. This year the Academy had 20 participants from no less than 19 universities from the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, Sweden and the United States.

As the plural form of the introductory question already suggests, American Studies is a very broad and diverse field and the 20 participants presented not only different universities, but also various disciplines: History, Political Science, Economics, Law, Literature and Cultural Studies. Naturally HCA aimed to create a dialogue between the different disciplines under the title of American Studies.

Given the “multidisciplinary approach” that is almost a fetish in the current academic culture, it will not be surprising that HCA also chose for this approach (although the website of this research institution speaks cautiously of a “cross-disciplinary dialogue”). The problem here is that the different disciplines do not always have something to say, which poses the danger that multidisciplinary seminars will end up in a succession of monologues instead of the desired dialogue. During the Spring Academy this trap was avoided.
Dit was geen toeval, maar het resultaat van een goed doordacht seminarprogramma. Naast de 20 deelnemende promovendi waren namelijk ook enige gevestigde wetenschappers uitgenodigd om workshops te geven die de toehoorders bekend maakten met vakgebieden waar zij weinig of geen kennis van hadden. Verder werd van de deelnemers verwacht dat zij alle onderzoekspresentaties van hun collegae bijwoonden en zorgden de inmiddels zeer ervaren moderators van het Spring Academy team ervoor dat daaropvolgende discussies tot nuttige uitwisselingen leidden. Doordat men ervoor had gekozen om overnachting, seminars, workshops en diverse sociale activiteiten hoofdzakelijk te combineren op één locatie—een universiteitsgasthuis dat prachtig gelegen is in de schaduw van het beroemde Heidelberger Schloss—ontstond zelfs een soort “minicampus” met bijbehorende intensieve contacten en gevoel van eenheid.

Het zal niemand verrassen dat tijdens de Spring Academy geen eenduidig antwoord werd gevonden op de vraag “Wat is/zo zijn American Studies?”. Niettemin waren de deelnemende promovendi het erover eens dat zij hun netwerk hadden uitgebreid met waardevolle contacten en bovendien ideeën hadden opgedaan die binnen de beperkingen van hun eigen vakgebied wellicht niet tot volle bloei zouden zijn gekomen.

Deelnemen aan de Spring Academy 2009?

Om voor deelname in aanmerking te komen, moet via een online formulier een aanvraag ingediend worden met een korte omschrijving van het dissertationproject. De nieuwe ronde van inschrijvingen zal waarschijnlijk openen in september en sluiten in december 2008. Tot op heden waren er geen kosten verbonden aan deelname en werd ook het verblijf in Heidelberg door het HCA georganiseerd en betaald. Overigens is het niet mogelijk om het seminar als bezoeker of toeschouwer bij te wonen.

Jorrit van den Berk

Transatlantic Relations Seminar

Date: 7 June 2008
Location: William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium, University College Dublin

Reform and Renewal: Transatlantic Relations during the 1960s and 1970s
Transatlantic relations underwent significant change during the 1960s and 1970s, particularly with regard to the United States and the countries of Western Europe. Post-1945 co-operation, dependence and direction increasingly gave way to resentment, economic competition and
division over military and foreign policies. A weakened United States economy, coupled with a focus on détente, led the Nixon administration to adopt policies that directly challenged European economic and security concerns. Yet, this was also the time when transatlantic relations experienced rejuvenation. Domestic political dynamics influenced this evolving US-European order, as shifts in the power balances between liberals and conservatives altered the political landscape. The rise of conservatism in the United States, no less than the debacle in Vietnam, augured new foreign policy priorities for American leaders. Coinciding with the renewed focus on economic liberalism on both sides of the Atlantic, the influence of conservatives in redefining international relations became increasingly prominent. This conference aims to explore the political changes which helped redefine the transatlantic relationship as the Sixties era came to an end, and a new age of conservatism came to prominence.

Plenary speakers:
Professor Robert K. Brigham
Professor Brigham is the Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of History and International Relations at Vassar College, New York. During 2007-2008, he is the Mary Ball Washington Visiting Professor at the School of History and Archives, UCD

Dr Stefan Halper
Dr. Stefan Halper is a Senior Research Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge and a Senior Fellow at the Cambridge Centre of International Studies, where he is Director of the Donner Atlantic Studies Program.

Dr Dominic Sandbrook
Dr Sandbrook—associate fellow at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University— is the author of Never Had It So Good: A History of Britain from Suez to the Beatles (2005), White Heat: A History of Britain in the Swinging Sixties (2006) and Eugene McCarthy and the Rise and Fall of Postwar American Liberalism (2004). He has been an and is currently working on a book on the United States during the 1970s.

Conference organisers: Dr Catherine Hynes and Dr Sandra Scanlon (Sandra.Scanlon@ucd.ie), UCD School of History and Archives.

6th MESEA Conference “Migration Matters”

From 25-28 June 2008 a large international conference will be organized at Leiden University under the auspices of the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (MESEA). MESEA was founded in 1998 in response to the challenge of ethnic studies in a time of increasing globalization to provide an international forum for interdisciplinary discussion on multi-ethnic studies. MESEA promotes the study of the ethnic cultures of Europe and the Americas in their circum-Atlantic relations from a transdisciplinary literary, historical and cultural studies perspective.

The theme of the 2008 MESEA conference in Leiden is “Migration Matters: Immigration, Homelands, and Border Crossings in Europe and the Americas.” Some 250 scholars from more than 30 countries specialized in (im)migration and ethnicity, including literature and culture scholars, historians, sociologists and anthropologists, will gather at Leiden for four days of plenary lectures and panel sessions.
Conference program:
In addition to more than 60 panels on a variety of migration-related themes, there will be four keynote lectures held by four internationally renowned scholars:

25 June, 16:00, Kamerlingh Onnes Building, Steenschuur 25, room C131, Leiden
Opening keynote by Saskia Sassen (Columbia University):
The Right to Have Rights: Immigrants and Citizens in the Global City

26 June, 11:30, Kamerlingh Onnes Building, room C131, Steenschuur 25, Leiden
Han Entzinger (Erasmus University, Rotterdam)
Integration Matters Too! Pathways of Immigrant Integration in Western Europe

27 June, 15:15, Kamerlingh Onnes Building, Steenschuur 25, Leiden
Lubaina Himid, visual artist (University of Central Lancashire, UK)
Naming the Money: Black Signifiers Are People Too

28 June, 11:15, Lipsius building, room 011, Cleveringaplaats 1, Leiden
Matthew Frye Jacobson (Yale)
Contesting “We the People”: Inclusion, Exclusion, and Identity Politics in American Ethnic Literatures

Special conference events:
- Reception offered by the City of Leiden and the College van Bestuur, Leiden University, at the Leiden City Hall, Wed. 25 June, 18:00.
- Readings by Writers, 26 June, 20:00, Literary Café De Burcht, Leiden.
- Excursion the Hague for a special guided tour of the Peace Palace, Friday morning, 27 June.

Information and registration:
For information about program and registration forms*, visit MESEA website: www.mesea.org.
Or contact local organizer Dr. Joke Kardux, messea2008@let.leidenuniv.nl.
Conference fee (regular): € 70; students and NASA and ACSN members*: € 30.
Note: the conference fee does not include welcome and conference dinners and excursion, for which you need to pay separately if you wish to join (see registration form).
* Please write on the registration form that you are a NASA or ACSN member.
Dreamworlds of East and West: *Culture and Ideology in Europe during the Cold War*

**Dates:** Friday 26 and Saturday 27 September 2008  
**Location:** Utrecht University

**Organizers:**  
Giles Scott Smith, Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg; Peter Romijn, the Dutch Institute for War Documentation, Amsterdam; and Joes Segal, the Research Institute for History and Culture, Utrecht.

**Project Description:**  
In recent years there has been increasing scholarly attention given to the “Cultural Cold War.” In general terms this phrase is used to refer to the ideological struggle between the US and Soviet blocs following the Second World War, and how this struggle was conducted with “cultural arguments” in East and West. This trend has broadened our understanding of the political relevance of Cold War cultural manifestations, but it has also raised questions concerning the value of the Cold War, and its implicit East-West divide, as a valid periodisation for examining cultural history.

This event starts with the view that the Cold War, as a unique ideological contest between East and West, remains a very significant backdrop to the cultural history of the 1945-1990 period. In this context, cultural activity played a crucial role in shaping the meta-narrative of both blocs. This was done either actively, by those who consciously engaged their art or intellectual output with the political environment, or passively, through the co-optation of cultural forms for political purposes. Culture became the sign through which the ideology of the Cold War was represented and understood in society at large, and contributed significantly to the process of “mobilization”: the concentration of energies in the service of countering external as well as domestic threats.

The conference program therefore aims to combine as much as possible the views of scholars researching developments in both East and West during the Cold War period, in order to stimulate further reflection on “cross-bloc cultures.”

**Program**

**Friday 26 September**  
Keynote Lecture I: David Caute: “Issues of Cold War Culture”

**Section I: Cultural Interpretations between the Blocs**  
- Nathan Abrams: An Unofficial Cultural Diplomat—Arthur Miller and the Cold War  
- William de Jong-Lambert: Biological Utopias East and West—Trofim D. Lysenko and his Critics  
- Jill Bugajski: Kantor’s Public—Warsaw-USA  
Section II: Images of the Self and the Other
- David Tompkins: Composers and the Party Line—Music and politics in East Germany and Poland in the Early Cold War
- Sandra Schruijer: Is the EAESP a Cold War Baby? An Investigation into the Political Context of its Formation
- Silke Betscher: Utopia and Dystopia—Press Pictures as a Media for Creating the “Self” and the “Other” in Early Cold War Germany, 1945-1950
- Tony Shaw & Denise Youngblood: Paradise Compared—Soviet and American film Propaganda During the Cold War

Saturday 27 September
Keynote Lecture II: To be announced

Section III: Modernity East and West
- Sabina Mihelj: Mediating Culture at the Crossroads of East and West—Uplifting the Working People, Entertaining the Masses, Cultivating the Nation
- Dean Vuletic: Popular Music, Nonalignment and the Cultural Cold War in Yugoslavia
- Christine Varga-Harris: Moving to(ward) Utopia—Soviet Housing in the Age of Sputnik
- Todor Hristov & Ivelina Ivanova: Heavy Dreams—Heavy Metal Music as a Political Message in Late Socialist Bulgaria

Section IV: Flow and Flight across the Blocs
- Ariana Hernandez-Reguant: The Productive Imagination—Inventions in Socialist Cuba
- Annette Vowinckel: Flying Away—Civil Aviation and the Dream of Freedom in East and West
- Emilia Karaboeva: Lost in a Dream—International Truck Drivers as Mediators between Eastern and Western Utopias
- Marsha Siefert: Co-producing Cold War Culture—East-West Film-making as Cultural Diplomacy

Further information can be obtained from Joes Segal at Joes.Segal@let.uu.nl and Giles Scott-Smith at g.scott-smith@zeeland.nl

Transatlantic Encounters: American Studies in the 21st Century

Date: 27-30 September 2008
Location: University of Lodz, Poland

We are pleased to announce an upcoming international conference, entitled “Transatlantic Encounters: American Studies in the 21st Century” to be held September 27-30, 2008 in Lodz, Poland. The conference is organized in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of American Studies and Mass Media at the University of Lodz. The conference will offer a forum for discussing issues related to American Studies as seen from the perspective of transatlantic and interdisciplinary research. We invite proposals from individual scholars as well as groups of three to five presenters on topics including, but not limited to:
- media and society: film, radio, TV, the press, and the new media
- multiculturalism: approaches to and representations of
- globalization, regionalization, political leadership
- terrorism: military and intellectual responses to
- national identity, migration, and representation
- popular culture and its national and international contexts
- interdisciplinary American Studies/Transatlantic Studies pedagogy

**Keynote speakers:** Emory Elliot (University of California, Riverside), Alfred Hornung (University of Mainz), and Zbigniew Lewicki (Warsaw University)

**Contact information:**
Email: trans2008@uni.lodz.pl

**Empire, Revolution, and New Identities:**
**Geoculture and Geopolitics in Brown and his Contemporaries**

**Date:** 9-11 October 2008
**Location:** Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany

Our conference theme emphasizes current efforts to explore Charles Brockden Brown and his era in terms of historical systems and forces that exceed traditional perspectives based on the nation-state. From his earliest writings and novels to the late “Annals of Europe and America,” Brown reflected on imperial and colonial systems, and drew on revolutionary-era print and intellectual networks that connected writers across his circum-Atlantic context. Our focus on geopolitics and geoculture in Brown and his contemporaries relates historical versions of these questions to contemporary scholarly work from “trans” or “post” nationalist perspectives on a variety of topics, from Empire and Colonialism to new formations of the subject.

The Dresden conference will mark the Brown Society’s return to Europe. At the heart of *Mitteleuropa* and in a region central to the German Enlightenment, Dresden will be an ideal location to consider international themes and the reconfiguration of national boundaries. The conference site in Dresden offers special opportunities for engaging with questions concerning Brown and German or Central-European Enlightenment, the cultural politics of *Sturm und Drang* and early romanticism, and the period’s German-language novelistic and historical production generally.

The conference organizers offer this general rubric to include a wide range of possible topics. We invite work not only on Brown, but also on his “contemporaries”: figures and topics that intersect with Brown, and other writers or topics in eighteenth-century or revolutionary culture (US or other) that contribute to our understanding of the conference topic in general. As always, we are particularly interested in papers and panels that address Brown’s non-novelistic writings and post-novelistic period after 1801.

Possible topics for papers and panels include:
- Theories and discourses of empire, imperialism, and colonialism then and now, and their use in reading Brown and other texts and practices of the eighteenth century and revolutionary-Napoleonic period.
- Empire, imperialism, colonialism and the gothic, from Brown to Shelley and beyond.
- Eighteenth-century and revolutionary women’s writing on empire.
- Brown and the German Enlightenment, philosophy, or literature: Brown and Schiller, Wieland, Kotzebue, or German science during the Enlightenment.
- Schiller, Tschink, Grosse, and the Schauerroman.
- Relations between Brown’s Circle, British Radical Circles, and German Culture (e.g., via Holcroft and Dunlap’s many translations from the German).
- Anglophone radical enlightenment (British, Irish, Scottish) and its relations with German Romanticism.
- Citizenship, civil society, and commerce in Brown and his contemporaries.
- Wollstonecraft, revolutionary-era feminism, and the transnational legacy of women’s issues.
- Historical or fictional romance, romantic love, and transnational intrigue (e.g., Wollstonecraft-Imlay-Godwin; Sansay-Burr, Hemmings-Jefferson; fictional pairings such as Pleyel—de Stolberg, Arthur Mervyn—Achsa Fielding, Constantia-Martinette-Sophia, etc.).
- Travel, Travel writing, and the representation of boundaries, regions, nations, etc.

**Instructions for submissions:**
Please send electronic files of 250-word paper and panel proposals before Monday 2 June 2008 to all three of the following addresses: Philip Barnard (philipb@ku.edu), Bryan Waterman (bryan.waterman@nyu.edu), and Lisa West (lisa.west@drake.edu).

**Travel Support for Graduate Students:**
Two Alfred Weber Travel Awards of $500 each for graduate student participation will be awarded, funded by the Brown Society. Criteria for these travel subventions will favor students at the dissertation stage (over those in earlier stages of degree work) and those who have not previously presented at a CBBS meeting. Graduate students applying for a subvention should indicate their interest in a cover letter and provide information about whether or not they are ABD.


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**Salzburg Seminar American Studies Alumni Association Symposium 2008**
**Transnationalism and Immigration Shock in American Society and Literature**

**Date:** October 30 - November 2, 2008

The 2008 SSASAA symposium is open to all Salzburg Global Seminar alumni interested in American Studies, as well as non-alumni working in a field related to the topic. The symposium will consist of presentations, plenary discussions, and theme-based working groups, led by distinguished American Studies scholars. Additional events include a barbeque, receptions, and a concert and gala dinner on the final evening.
Speakers
Ron Clifton, Stetson University, Deland, Florida
Emory Elliott (co-chair), University of California Riverside
Rob Kroes, University of Utrecht, Netherlands
Paul Lauter (co-chair), Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut
Deborah Madsen, University of Geneva
Ana Maria Manzanas, University of Salamanca, Spain

Symposium description
Since the late 1960s, social, political, and technological changes throughout the world have accelerated the cultural diversity and synergism of many nations. People, forms of cultural expression, as well as capital have crossed or altered former national borders. Millions of people from Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa have migrated to the United States, as well as to Europe, and even to developing countries like India, South Korea, and Brazil. These movements have resulted in remarkable social, political, and cultural transformations both for the new arrivals and for the communities and regions in which they have settled. New immigrants bring with them foods, styles of dress, religious practices, forms of art and expression, and perspectives on all aspects of human experience that daily transform the cultural fabric of their communities and of host countries like the United States. The hybrid cultures thus produced express and often allay social tensions; it is almost a journalistic commonplace now to say that such forms of popular culture function as catalysts for social cohesion. But there are also many sources of conflict present in the clash of cultural forms, not only between those communities and their new neighbors—the “immigration shock” of our title—but also between generations within the immigrant communities. Much more needs to be understood about the social origins, the characteristics, and the impacts of such cultural production—and the extent to which the critical paradigms it is generating are replacing or altering those of the multiculturalism familiar to us for the last half century. Our discussion will include attention to the way literature functions as an agent of social dynamics related to immigration, the way it acts as a mirror for social change, and how it functions as an active player in the processes of change. Given the fact that issues related to immigration are figuring prominently in the upcoming presidential election, we will look at the ways in which Americans are reacting to the major current political and social tensions surrounding this discussion. The purpose of the symposium on transnationalism and immigration shock is to examine many aspects of the changes in the society and cultures of the United States that have resulted from these often radical, always unsettling changes.

Payment information: The fee for the symposium is € 500 for a single and € 800 for a double room. The fee includes accommodation and meals for three nights, tuition and fees and social events, but does not include travel expenses. Limited financial aid is available for partial scholarships to help cover the symposium fee. The reasons for this need should be stated at the time of registration. Bank Transfer: IBAN: AT 401953000100180942; Bankhaus Carl Spängler & Co., Salzburg, BIC (Bank Code) SPAEAT2S, Austria. Credit cards are accepted (payment in Euro only). In order to reserve a space, a completed registration form and a 100 Euro deposit (refundable until 1 September 2008) is required.

Space is limited and reservations will be confirmed in the order in which they are received. For further information about the SSASAA symposium, contact SSASAA Symposium Director Ms. Marty Gecek, mgecek@SalzburgGlobal.org.
International Conference on Intercultural Studies

Date: 9 December 2008
Location: The Centre for Intercultural Studies, Oporto Portugal

The Centre for Intercultural Studies (www.iscap.ipp.pt/~cei/) of the Polytechnic Institute of Oporto’s School of Accounting and Administration (ISCA-IPP) organizes and hosts the International Conference on Intercultural Studies, on 9 December 2008. CEI invites all national and international researchers who develop an active interest for the vast field of Intercultural Studies to submit 20 minute paper proposals in Portuguese, English, French, German or Spanish with: title, subject area and abstract (250 words) and bio note (100 words), until 15 June 2008, to: cei@iscap.ipp.pt.

Paper proposals should cover, but not to be restricted to, one of the following broad subject areas:
- Representations of Cultures;
- Journeys through Cultures;
- Translation and Interpreting;
- Compared Contemporary Legal Systems;
- Tourism and Intercultural Studies;
- Gender and Intercultural Studies;
- Learning / Teaching Languages and Cultures;
- Intra-Cultural Studies;
- The Portuguese Language in the World: New Approaches;
- Information Systems and Intercultural Studies;
- Economic and Cultural Globalization;
- Intercultural Studies in History / History and Intercultural Studies

Papers that are accepted and actually read at the Conference will be selected and considered for national and international publication.

Further details at the Conference’s website: http://www.iscap.ipp.pt/~cei/congresso.htm

BEURZEN EN PRIJZEN

2010 OAH David Thelen Award

The Organization of American Historians sponsors a biennial award (formerly the Foreign Language Article Prize through 1998) for the best article on American history published in a foreign language. The winning article will be published in The Journal of American History. David Thelen was editor of The Journal of American History 1985-1999. Entries must have been published during the preceding two calendar years (2007-2008). To be eligible, an article should be concerned with the past (recent or distant) or with issues of continuity and change. It should also be concerned with events or processes that began, developed, or ended in what is now the United States. It should make a significant and original contribution to the understanding of US history. We welcome comparative and international studies that fall within these guidelines.

The Organization of American Historians invites authors of eligible articles to nominate their work. We urge scholars who know of eligible publications written by others to inform those authors of this award. Under unusual circumstances unpublished manuscripts will be
considered. We ask authors to consult with the committee chair before submitting unpublished material.
Since the purpose of the award is to expose Americanists to scholarship originally published in a language other than English—to overcome the language barrier that keeps scholars apart—this award is not open to articles whose manuscripts were originally submitted for publication in English or by people for whose English is their first language.
Please write a one- to two-page essay (in English) explaining why the article is a significant and original contribution to our understanding of American history. The essay and five copies of the article, clearly labeled “2010 David Thelen Award Entry,” must be mailed to the following address and received by 1 May 2009:

Edward T. Linenthal, Editor, The Journal of American History (Committee Chair)
David Thelen Award Committee
1215 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47401

The application should also include the following information: name, mailing address, institutional affiliation, fax number, email address (if available), and language of submitted article. Copies of the article and application will be reviewed by contributing editors of The Journal of American History who are proficient in the language of the submission, as well as by referees (proficient in the language of the submitted article) who are experts on its subject matter.
The final prize decision will be made by the David Thelen Award Committee by 1 February 2010. The winner will be notified by the OAH and furnished with details of the annual meeting and the awards presentation. In addition, the winning article will be printed in The Journal of American History and its author awarded a $500 subvention for refining the article’s English translation.

RECENSIES

Here in my study, in its listlessness
of Vacancy, some old Victorian house,
air-tight and sheeted for old summers,
far from the hornet yatter of the bond—
is loneliness, a thin smoke thread of vital
air. What can I catch from you now?
Doom was woven in your nerves, your shirt,
woven in the great clan; they too were loyal,
you too were more than loyal to them...to death.
For them, like a prince, you daily left your tower
to walk through dirt in your best cloth. Here now,
alone, in my Plutarchan bubble, I miss
you, you out of Plutarch, made by hand—
forever approaching our maturity.

Robert Kennedy

Robert Lowell
Robert Kennedy was killed by the 24-year-old Palestinian immigrant Sirhan B. Sirhan on 5 June 1968 at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, almost forty years ago. Kennedy was the younger brother of President John F. Kennedy who was likewise assassinated, in 1963, and had served under him as Attorney General. RFK had become a United States Senator for New York in 1965 and when he was shot he had just won the Californian primary and was still in the race to become the Democratic nominee for Presidency. Even though they were both politicians and met a similar fate, the Kennedy brothers were not too much alike: “John Kennedy was a man of reason; Robert, a man of passion,” Arthur Schlesinger has suggested: “John was objective, analytical, and invulnerable (except to the assassin’s bullet). Robert was subjective, emotional and acutely vulnerable. John enjoyed his friends. Robert needed his friends. John was buoyant, Robert melancholy; John urbane, Robert brusque.”

Like many poets, Robert Lowell was enamored by the Kennedy family when they rose to power in the 1960s. At a reception after John F. Kennedy’s inauguration in Washington D.C., Lowell wrote down in the Kennedy guest-book that he was “happy that at long last the Goths have left the White House.” When the new President’s brother Robert Kennedy read it, he responded: “I guess we are the Visigoths.” Lowell became friends with the Kennedys, especially with the President’s wife, Jacqueline, but also with Bobby. When Lowell gave Jackie a copy of a book on the Greek historian, biographer, and essayist Plutarch, RFK was so intrigued by it that he borrowed it from his sister-in-law when she was done with it. It was Robert Kennedy’s wit and their shared interest in history and poetry that resulted in a brief friendship between the two namesakes from Boston. Their kinship contributed to Lowell’s renewed interest in contemporary politics.

Yet Lowell did not support Robert Kennedy’s candidacy in 1968. By that year Lowell had come to feel that Kennedy was “tarnished with power” and was “thirsting to return to that power.” Instead Lowell endorsed the more openly liberal Eugene McCarthy’s run for the Presidency, and he even campaigned with him. Lowell’s support for one of his main competitors must have irritated Kennedy and he shunned Lowell in the “brusque” manner that Schlesinger claimed was typical of him. There is a note of regret in Lowell’s elegy for Kennedy, which may have been caused by their falling out shortly before Kennedy died. Lowell’s poem was first published in The New Republic on 22 June 1968, more than two weeks after the assassination. “I miss / you” is a remarkably candid way in which Lowell voices his feelings. “R.F.K. (1925-1968)” is not an ordinary elegy written for a statesman that one can find in poetry in English. Lowell’s elegy is more involved, more personal than those. In the last few lines, Lowell refers twice to Plutarch. The title of Plutarch’s most important work Parallel Lives sketches how Lowell sees Kennedy. Robert Kennedy and he have led similar lives, Lowell realizes. Both of them were born in Boston, had attended Harvard University, and were as close to royalty and aristocracy as you can get in the United States. Lowell was like nobility by birth as a Boston Brahmin who descended from those who landed on Plymouth Rock on the Mayflower, while Kennedy was part of an emerging “great clan,” the Kennedy dynasty. Yet there were also clear differences between them. Lowell is the writer who ultimately wanted to be safe in his air-conditioned and “Victorian house,” while Kennedy was the politician who took risks, even with his own life. Kennedy could have quit politics after the death of his brother in 1963, but despite the many threats he did not. Unlike Lowell, Kennedy is similar to the Greek democratic ancient heroes in Plutarch’s chronicles; he lived an exemplary life. Kennedy walked “through dirt” in his “best cloth,” referring perhaps also metaphorically to Kennedy’s job as secretary of the Department of Justice to clean up America. Lowell decided that he was more like Plutarch himself, a chronicler of history rather than an active participant of history. That year after the assassinations on Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, Lowell must have decided, as W.B. Yeats had before him, that poets have “no gift to set a statesman right.” After Kennedy
was assassinated in 1968, Lowell did not even vote in the Presidential election, as if symbolically indicating that he was withdrawing from politics altogether. From now on he would stay inside his “Plutarchan bubble” and leave the politicians and politics alone. It was the end of an era.

Diederik Oostdijk

NIEUWE PUBLICATIES

Giles Scott-Smith

*Networks of Empire: The US State Department’s Foreign Leader Program in the Netherlands, France, and Britain 1950-70*

Exchange programs have been a part of US foreign relations since the nineteenth century, but it was only during and after World War II that they were applied by the US government on a large scale to influence foreign publics in support of strategic objectives. This book looks at the background, organization, and goals of the Department of State’s most prestigious activity in this field, the Foreign Leader Program. The Program (still running as the International Visitor Leadership Program) enabled US Embassies to select and invite talented, influential “opinion leaders” to visit the United States, meet their professional counterparts, and gain a broad understanding of American attitudes and opinions from around the country. By tracking the operation of the Program in three key transatlantic allies of the United States a full picture is given of who was selected and why and how the target groups changed over time in line with a developing US-European relationship. The book therefore takes a unique in-depth look at the importance of exchanges for the extension of US “informal empire” and the maintenance of the transatlantic alliance during the Cold War.

Giles Scott-Smith is senior researcher at the Roosevelt Study Center.

Wil Verhoeven

*Gilbert Imlay: Citizen of the World*
London: Pickering & Chatto, 2008; XIV + 300 pp, ISBN 987 1 85196 859 6. £ 60.00/$99.00

This is the first book-length biography of the American Gilbert Imlay (c.1754-c.1828), Revolutionary War veteran, land-jobber, travel-writer, novelist, entrepreneur, agent provocateur—and infamous lover of Mary Wollstonecraft. The book concerns an Imlay little known to those working in Romantic Studies, so includes a reconstruction of Imlay’s early life in New Jersey; an account of his activities as a land speculator; the intriguing relations he had with a spate of historical characters; and his involvement with the Girondist government’s plans to launch a revolt in the Western Territory against the United States to destabilize Spanish rule in Louisiana. Previously undocumented details of Imlay’s participation in the transatlantic slave trade are also included.
Though his life provides a fascinating biography in its own right, the book highlights how Imlay unwittingly acted as an intermediary between figures of greater significance, whose diverse ideas, ambitions and schemes he frequently borrowed and disseminated across the Atlantic and across continents, whilst invariably serving his own interests.

Much of the text is based on original documentary sources (including Imlay’s largely unknown letters), gathered from a variety of rare book and manuscript collections. It will be of interest to scholars of Romanticism, politics, biography and book history.

Will Verhoeven is Professor of American Studies in Groningen.

**Joyce D. Goodfriend, Benjamin Schmidt, and Annette Scott, eds.**

*Going Dutch: The Dutch Presence in America 1609-2009*


This volume investigates the place of Dutch history and Dutch-derived culture in America over the last four centuries. It considers how the Dutch have fared in America, and it explores how American conceptions of Dutchness have developed, from Henry Hudson’s historic voyage to Manhattan in 1609 through the rise of Dutch design at the turn of the twenty-first century. Essays probe a rich array of topics: Dutch themes in American arts and letters; the place of Dutch paintings in American collections; shifting American interests in Dutch art, literature, and architecture; the experience of Dutch immigrants in America; and the Dutch Reformed Church in America. Going Dutch presents a much needed overview of the Dutch-American experience from its beginnings to the present.

**Magriet Bruijn Lacy, Charles Gehring, Jenneke Oosterhoff, eds.**

*From De Halve Maen to KLM: 400 Years of Dutch-American Exchange*


The editors collected thirty essays in Dutch-American topics in the past four centuries, including archaeology and material culture (House building in New Netherland, Colonial Dutch Material Culture after 1664, engraved wineglasses, and artisan builders), trade history (Indians and Europeans); religion (cultural practices, impact of revivals, theological developments), art (Hendrick ter Brugghen, Rembrandt and Vermeer), modes of travel (from sail to steam to airplane), language (Low Dutch, Jacob Cats, Washington Irving and Walt Whitman), fiction and literature (Kellendonk), and the legacy of colonialism. Excellent material to draw from for the upcoming celebration of Henry Hudson.
American pop culture—Hollywood cinema, television, pop music—dominates the rest of the world through its hegemonic presence. Does that make everyone a hybridized American, or do these elements find mediation within the other cultures that consume them? Fabricating the Absolute Fake applies concepts of postmodern theory—Baudrillard’s hyperreality and Eco’s “absolute fake,” among others—to this globally mediated American pop culture in order to examine both the phenomenon itself and its appropriation in the Netherlands, as evidenced by such diverse cultural icons as the Elvis-inspired crooner Lee Towers, the Moroccan-Dutch rapper Ali B, musical tributes to an assassinated politician, and the Dutch reality soap opera scene.

Jaap Kooijman is Associate Professor in Media & Culture and American Studies at the University of Amsterdam. For more information on this title please visit the website www.aup.nl.

**LEZINGEN**

The coming months, the John Adams Institute organizes the following lectures:

**10 juni:** Paul Auster  
**Location:** de Duif, Prinsengracht 754 Amsterdam

Paul Auster was born in New Jersey, but is most associated with Brooklyn (where he has long lived) and Paris (where he worked as a translator of French literature). He is a writer like no other, who has been known to mix magical realism with detective fiction. From the “New York Trilogy” of the 1980s to *Mr. Vertigo*, in which a boy is determined to learn to levitate, to *Timbuktu*, whose main character is a dog, to the screenplay for the indie film *Smoke*, Auster’s work plays on coincidence and absurdity. In his new novel, *Man in the Dark*, Auster turns a political theme—the war in Iraq—into an exploration of the possibly even more nightmarish realm of one man’s psyche. In this special John Adams Institute event, Paul Auster will read from his new work on the occasion of its Dutch premier. Join us for an evening with one of the most celebrated writers of our time.

Tickets are available through the website [http://www.john-adams.nl/lectures/order.htm](http://www.john-adams.nl/lectures/order.htm).  
**Prices:**  
- JAI Members online discount €11.00  
- Student/Senior €10,00  
- Non-members €18,50

**19 juni:** Lisa Jardine, for more information, please visit the website.
TENTOONSTELLINGEN

FREEDOM AMERICAN SCULPTURE

The Hague Sculpture 2008 - 6 June to 31 August 2008
http://www.denhaagsculptuur.nl/2008uk/freedom.html

In the summer of 2008, The Hague Sculpture wants to draw attention to American sculpture, particularly artists who were or have been active as of 1958. With well-known and high-profile sculptures, as well as new works of art created especially for the exhibition, The Hague Sculpture aims to show what freedom means for artists and indirectly how important it is for all of us, visitors and fellow citizens, to cherish freedom and to not take it for granted.

With the theme FREEDOM, The Hague Sculpture will be taking a fitting cultural run-up to the American presidential elections ending on 4 November 2008, which show all the signs of building up to being a memorable and exciting event. The FREEDOM-exhibition is also an ideal opportunity to shed light on the major influences of American sculpture and art on Dutch art & artists, its exhibition-site situated between governmental buildings and embassies and nearby the recently beautified embassy of the United States at the Lange Voorhout.

The United States came into its own by embracing freedom and is currently experiencing a “growing up in public” mid-life crisis in which freedom must once again be fought for, both at home and abroad, precisely at a moment in history in which the redefinition of freedom & liberties everywhere in the world are increasingly an item of debate. Freedom is a fascinating term, simultaneously simple and complex, universal and personal, and continuously evoking different meanings and different interpretations. In addition, freedom is very much connected with what we consider to be the typically American “land of the free”- identity. After all, America likes to be known and many like to see it still as the ultimate country of unlimited possibilities precisely due to the special emphasize on (personal) freedom(s) for citizens of the United States.

The city of The Hague is increasingly regarded as an international touchstone of peace and justice, with its numerous international organizations in political, legal and diplomatic areas. The theme of freedom links up perfectly with the cultural and political-social ambitions of The Hague (and the Netherlands). FREEDOM, is aiming for an artistically delightful, challenging and educational art experience for a large-scale, diverse public. In the social-cultural, political heart of the Netherlands, The Hague Sculpture 2008 hopes to treat art-lovers, amateurs, professionals, tourists, young and old citizens from both the Netherlands and abroad to an exhibition inspiring curiosity about what art and freedom & freedom in art means to artists but also to themselves.

The festive opening will take place in 2008 at a new location, the Koninklijke Schouwburg; this time not just speeches but within a typically American talk show atmosphere à la Oprah with special American and Dutch guests, and of course participating artists from the United States itself. It promises to be a refreshingly new beginning of our annual sculpture festival on the Lange Voorhout, with an emphasis on the celebration of freedom.
**KALENDER 2008**

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